

NEWS UPDATE

**Shelby County Office of Preparedness-Memphis & Shelby County
Emergency Management Agency-Bob Nations, Director**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
(901) 515-2525



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SHELTER UPDATE

In response to the growing need for shelter by hurricane evacuees, two additional shelters are opening tonight at Memphis Park Services community centers. Both City of Memphis Mayor Dr. Willie W. Herenton and Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., want to reassure Gulf Coast evacuees they will have a place to stay while they wait to return home.

“We pulled our emergency operations team together late this afternoon and worked throughout the evening to get the two shelters open. This is a very stressful time for our Gulf Coast neighbors. We want to do all we can to meet their needs,” said Bob Nations, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness/Memphis Shelby County Emergency Management Agency.

Volunteers with the Memphis and Shelby County Emergency Management Agency and Red Cross teamed up with Shelby County Corrections Center inmates tonight to move bedding and other supplies into the Lester Community Center at 317 Tillman and the Hollywood Community Center at 1560 North Hollywood. The Red Cross is overseeing the centers which will remain open for next few days.

More than 3000 people are now staying at 22 area shelters which include community centers, schools and churches. Federal Emergency Management Agency officials say it may be Friday before hurricane evacuees may return to the Gulf Coast.

(End of Release)